



**CANDY EVANS** tries the first 2012 Eddis Crusader Cyclone off the production line, with the help of her daughter Sabrina, at Hertford Club Site

# A great Crusader

There are certainly advantages to a caravan as large as the Eddis Crusader Cyclone. It may need a large towcar to move this twin axle unit safely around the country, but the extra space inside has real benefits.

**1 Luxury at night.** The most obvious feature when you step inside is the large island bed at the rear. It's supremely comfortable – though in typical fashion, my daughter nominated it as her sleeping area so I had to take her word for it. Our picture shows the Cyclone with the optional Kento Aquaclean fabric.

The storage in this bedroom is superb with wardrobes on either side of the bed, overhead cupboards above it and even a small shelf for each occupant's morning cup of tea. There was plenty of space underneath the bed too, though you'd need to be careful loading this when you're towing. With the extra corner cupboards there should be ample space for your holiday gear.

**2 Eating on board.** I was surprised not to see the fridge at first – since it's much larger than a standard caravan fridge – but then found it tucked away next to the washroom where it isn't visible from the living area. Above is a microwave that's secured in a cupboard with a hinged front panel. Presumably you could remove it if you don't need it, giving extra shelf space.

The main kitchen area is opposite the fridge and washroom. The layout diagram doesn't do it justice because it doesn't show one of the best work surfaces I've used in a long time, with a couple of 230V sockets ready for your kettle and toaster. There is space to stand your tea-making equipment even if you use the removable draining board by the sink. The sink itself is an attractive black granite-effect unit next to the hob and underneath a display cabinet. You'll also find a three-burner gas hob with an electric hotplate, a grill and separate oven, plus plenty more storage space.

The kitchen cupboards are differentiated from those elsewhere by the use of alternative front panels complemented by plain walls. Another pleasant (and unusual) touch in the Cyclone is the patterned 'wallpaper' in the sleeping and living areas of the unit.

**3 Keeping clean.** Many of the units I've tested recently have had end washrooms so I wondered whether this

mid-caravan layout might feel small. It didn't. There's less room for storage than in an end washroom, but the shower cubicle is plenty big enough to be practical and the clean lines of the three eye-level cupboards, wood-covered shelving unit and baby butler-style sink made this washroom functional and stylish.

**4 During the day.** If there was one tiny disappointment for me in this caravan it was in the living area. I'd have preferred slightly longer sofas – which would mean they could also be used as single beds. Nevertheless, the seating is comfortable, especially with the additional cushions and bolsters that come with the standard Linden soft furnishings. The kit in this area of the caravan is also impressive. An Avtex television comes as standard (with Freeview and DVD player functions, among others) along with a CD/radio and connections for many different devices, including a USB port at the front of the caravan.

There's a second position for the television in the rear bedroom, though you may wish to invest in a second set to avoid transporting it back and forth.

Lighting is comprehensive, with lights above the cupboards, corner lamps, an LED strip light under the front cupboards and four reading lights – all just for this living area.

Making up the bed at this end of the caravan involves the traditional night-time juggling of cushions on top of a slide-out slatted base, but it's comfortable when made up. Since the test I've spoken to Eddis about the detector for the factory-fitted alarm. In the one I tried it flashed red every time I turned over in bed. The only way to ensure a good night's sleep was to make an improvised 'detector deflector' from a piece of cardboard. Eddis recognises the problem and says it will see whether there's a better place for this, though the less bright flash from the carbon monoxide detector will remain.

**And finally.** This is definitely a large unit with its standard plated Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Weight (MTPLM) at 1,735kg, allowing only 173kg of user payload. Add a few extras, such as a motor mover to make manoeuvring it a little easier, and you may want to upgrade this to the full 1.9 tonnes – assuming your car can tow it.

Nevertheless, Eddis has designed the interior well, making the most of the space inside.



at a glance

**Eddis Crusader Cyclone**

Price as tested £24,294  
 Club Care insurance £358  
 Berths Four  
 Length x width x height 8m x 2.3m x 2.58m  
 Mass in Running Order 1,562kg  
 Maximum Technically Permissible Laden Mass 1,735kg  
 User payload 173kg  
 BE licence required Yes  
 Manufacturer Eddis  
 Tel 01207 699000  
 Web eddis.co.uk



**Verdict:** A large well-appointed caravan that looks good inside and out.